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Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion

Letter dated 26 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, held on 20 September 2017, on the margins of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly.

In this regard, I am pleased to transmit herewith a copy of the Political Declaration of New York (see annex), which was unanimously adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Movement at the ministerial meeting.

I should be grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31.

(*Signed*) Rafael **Ramírez**
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Annex to the letter dated 26 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Political Declaration of New York

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), gathered on 20 September 2017, in New York, on the margins of the High Level Segment of the 72 Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, undertook a review of the state of the international situation, particularly on the "Promulgation and Implementation of Unilateral Coercive Measures, in violation of International Law and the Human Rights of the Peoples subjected to them", and declared:

1. To reaffirm and underscore the Movement's abiding faith in and strong commitment to its founding principles, ideals and purposes, particularly in establishing a peaceful and prosperous world and a just and equitable world order as well as to the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

2. To reaffirm the positions contained in its Final Document, as adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Movement, during the XVII Summit of Island of Margarita.

3. To reaffirm the provisions of the Declaration of Havana on the Purposes and Principles and the Role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Current International Juncture (2006), as well as of the Declaration of Island of Margarita (2016).

4. To reaffirm the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the principles and rules of international law, which are indispensable in preserving and promoting peace and security, the rule of law, economic development and social progress, and human rights for all. In this context, UN Member States, including those Member States of the Security Council, should renew their commitment to respect, defend, preserve and promote the UN Charter and international law, with the aim of making further progress to achieving full respect for international law.

5. To reaffirm their commitment to the promotion, protection, and fulfillment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, without discrimination, and to this end emphasize that all human rights: civil, cultural, economic, political and social are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and that they must be treated globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis; and also underline that the core values and principles of democracy, sustainable development and the respect of all human rights, including the right to development, are all closely related and mutually reinforcing.

6. To reaffirm their opposition to unilateralism and unilateral coercive measures imposed by certain States, including those of an economic, financial or trade nature not in accordance with international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States, which can lead to the erosion and violation of the UN Charter, international law and human rights, the use and threat of use of force, and pressure and coercive measures as a means to achieving their national policy objectives, including those measures used as tools for political or economic and financial pressure against any country, in particular against developing countries. They further expressed their concern at the continued imposition of such measures which hinder the well-being of population of the affected countries and that create obstacles to the full realization of their human rights.

7. To reaffirm their commitment to initiate further vigorous transparent and inclusive initiatives to achieve the realization of multilateral cooperation in the areas of economic development and social progress, peace and security, and human rights for all and the rule of law, including through enhancing the Movement's unity, solidarity and cohesiveness on issues of collective concern and interests with the aim of shaping the multilateral agenda to embrace development as a fundamental priority, which should take into account the need for the developing and developed countries, and international institutions to intensify partnerships and coordinate their efforts and resources to effectively address all imbalances in the global agenda.

8. To reaffirm their commitment to the promotion, preservation and strengthening of multilateralism and the multilateral decision making process through the United Nations, by strictly adhering to its Charter and international law, with the aim of creating a just and equitable world order and global democratic governance.

9. To reaffirm that solidarity, the highest expression of respect, friendship and peace among States, is a broad concept encompassing the sustainability of international relations, the peaceful coexistence, and the transformative objectives of equity and empowerment of developing countries, whose ultimate goal is to achieve the full economic and social development of their peoples.

10. To reaffirm their determination to refrain from recognizing, adopting or implementing extraterritorial or unilateral coercive measures or laws, including unilateral economic sanctions, other intimidating measures, and arbitrary travel restrictions, that seek to exert pressure on Non-Aligned Countries — threatening their sovereignty and independence, and their freedom of trade and investment — and prevent them from exercising their right to decide, by their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems, where such measures or laws constitute flagrant violations of the UN Charter, international law, particularly the principles of non-intervention, self-determination and independence of States subjects to such practices, and the multilateral trading system, as well as the norms and principles governing friendly relations among States; and in this regard, oppose and condemn these measures or laws and their continued application, persevere with efforts to effectively reverse them and urge other States to do likewise, as called for by the General Assembly and other UN organs; request States applying these measures or laws to revoke them fully and immediately.

11. To reaffirm their strong condemnation to the unilateral application of economic and trade measures by one State against another that affect the free flow of international trade, which is not in accordance with international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States. They called for the immediate elimination of such measures and urged States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to fully comply with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation, and accordingly refrain from promulgating and application of such unilateral economic and trade measures against other States.

12. To reaffirm the objective of making the right to development a reality for everyone as set out in the UN Millennium Declaration, in the UN Declaration on the Right to Development and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and give due consideration to the negative impact of unilateral economic and financial coercive measures on the realization of the right to development.

13. To reaffirm that food should not be used as an instrument for political and economic pressure. They reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation

and solidarity, as well as the necessity of refraining from undertaking unilateral coercive measures with general impact that endanger food security and are note in accordance with international law, including the general welfare and advancement of social development for communities in developing countries, with a view to mitigate the vulnerabilities particularly faced by women and children.

14. To reaffirm their determination that if any Member of the Movement suffers harm, whether this is economic, political or military in nature, or in terms of its security, as well as from the politicization of human rights, or if a Member suffers harm as a result of the imposition of unilateral sanctions or embargos that are not in accordance with international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States, the Movement should express its solidarity with the affected country through the provision of political, moral, material and other forms of assistance.

15. To reaffirm and stress their principled positions concerning peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States, and on the non-use or threat of use of force, including through the promotion of political understanding and constructive dialogue among States, on the basis of mutual respect.

16. To reaffirm their opposition to all attempts of uniculturalism or the imposition of particular models of political, economic, social, legal or cultural systems, and promote dialogue among civilizations, culture of peace and inter-faith dialogue, which will contribute towards peace, security, stability, sustainable development and promotion of human rights.

17. To reaffirm their determination to continue opposing any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity or territorial integrity of a State, as well as their commitment for the respect of the sovereignty, the sovereign equality of States, the non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and the abstention from the threat or use of force, in accordance with the UN Charter.

18. To reaffirm their determination to advance in the enhancement of the status and role of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) as an anti-war peace-loving force, including through its instrumentalization as a Front for World Peace, and in favor, in particular, of the respect of the right to life and the inalienable right of the peoples to their self-determination and independence.

19. To take note of the adoption by the UN General Assembly on 22 June 2017 of resolution 71/292 requesting an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965 and encourage members to make written submissions in support of the completion of the decolonization of Mauritius to the Court within the prescribed time frame of 30 January 2018.

20. To reaffirm that terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation. The brutalization of people remaining under foreign occupation should continue to be denounced as the gravest form of terrorism, and that the use of State power for the suppression and violence against peoples struggling against foreign occupation in exercising their inalienable right to self-determination should continue to be condemned. In this regard and in accordance with the UN Charter, international law and the relevant UN resolutions, the struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation

for self-determination and national liberation does not constitute terrorism (A/RES/46/51 of 9 December 1991).

21. To reaffirm that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and that these attributions should not be used to justify terrorism or counter-terrorism measures that include, inter alia, profiling of terror suspects and intrusion on individual privacy.

22. To reaffirm their strong and unequivocal condemnation, as criminal, and reject terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as all acts, methods and practices of terrorism wherever, by whomever, against whomsoever committed, including those in which States are directly or indirectly involved, which are unjustifiable whatever the considerations or factors that may be invoked to justify them, and in this context, reaffirm their support for the provisions contained in General Assembly resolution 46/51 of 9 December 1991 and other relevant UN resolutions.

23. To reaffirm the obligation of all States to ensure the security and safety of the members and premises of diplomatic and consular missions, as well as their inviolability, in accordance with international law, the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations as well as relevant UN General Assembly resolutions.

24. To reaffirm their commitment to taking all necessary measures to prevent the use of new platforms, including the internet, digital social networking and mass media, in spreading extremist religious thoughts and ideas, which eventually undermine the culture of peace and religious diversity.

25. To reaffirm the need for States to cooperate resolutely against international terrorism by taking speedy and effective measures to eliminate this scourge, and, in this regard, urge all States, in accordance with their obligations under applicable international law and the UN Charter, to deny safe haven and bring to justice or, where appropriate, extradite, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, the perpetrators of terrorist acts or any person who supports, facilitates or participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning or preparation of terrorist acts.

26. To reaffirm their resolve to take speedy and effective measures to eliminate international terrorism, and in this context, urge all States, consistent with the UN Charter, to fulfill their obligations under international law and international humanitarian law combating terrorism, including by prosecuting or, where appropriate, extraditing the perpetrators of terrorist acts; by preventing the organization, instigation or financing of terrorist acts against other States from within or outside their territories or by organizations based in their territories; by refraining from organizing, instigating, assisting, financing or participating in terrorist acts in the territories of other States; by refraining from encouraging activities within their territories directed towards the commission of such acts; by refraining from allowing the use of their territories for planning, training or financing for such acts; or by refraining from supplying arms or other weapons that could be used for terrorist acts in other States.

New York, 20 September 2017